



**Legislative Bulletin..... July 18, 2005**

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**H.Res. \_\_** —Commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India

**Summary of the Resolutions Under Consideration Today:**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$0

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 0

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

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**H.Res. 361 — Recognizing the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration on July 21, 1930 — *as introduced* (Buyer)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 18, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H. Res. 361 would recognize the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration on July 21, 1930. Among the resolutions findings are:

- “In the history of the United States, more than 48,000,000 citizen-soldiers have served the Nation in uniform, of whom more than 1,000,000 gave their lives as a consequence of their duties;
- “As of July 21, 2005, there are more than 25,000,000 living veterans;
- “The Nation's obligation to its veterans is encapsulated in the following words of President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, delivered on March 4, 1865, ‘. . . to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan’;
- “On July 21, 1930, President Herbert Hoover issued an executive order creating a new agency, the Veterans Administration, to ‘consolidate and coordinate Government activities affecting war veterans’;
- “On October 25, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Act (Public Law 100-527) under which, effective as of March 15, 1989, the Veterans Administration was established as an executive department and redesignated as the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the mission of providing Federal benefits to veterans and their families.”

The resolution resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans’ Administration; and
- “acknowledges the achievements of the employees of the Veterans’ Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs and commends them for their contributions to the Nation's veterans.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 361 was introduced on July 13<sup>th</sup>, and referred to the Committee on House Veterans Affairs. The resolution was considered and a mark-up session was held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, and it was reported to the House by voice vote the same day.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

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## **H.Res. 326 — Calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan— *as amended* (Gallegly)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution, as amended, is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 18, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 326 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “calls on the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to hold orderly, peaceful, and free and fair parliamentary elections in November 2005 in order to ensure the long-term growth and stability of the country;
- “calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee the full participation of opposition parties in the upcoming elections, including members of opposition parties arrested in the months leading up to the November 2005 parliamentary elections;
- “calls upon the opposition parties to fully and peacefully participate in the November 2005 parliamentary elections, and calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to create the conditions for the participation on equal grounds of all viable candidates;
- “believes it is critical that the November 2005 parliamentary elections be viewed by the people of Azerbaijan as free and fair, and that all sides refrain from violence during the campaign, on election day, and following the election;
- “calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee election monitors from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Azeri political parties, candidates’ representatives, nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations, both foreign and domestic, unimpeded access to all aspects of the election process;
- “supports recommendations made by the Council of Europe on amendments to the Unified Election Code of Azerbaijan, specifically to ensure equitable representation of opposition and pro-government forces in all election commissions;
- “urges the international community and domestic nongovernmental organizations to provide a sufficient number of election observers to ensure credible monitoring and reporting of the November 2005 parliamentary elections;
- “recognizes the need for the establishment of an independent media and assurances by the Government of Azerbaijan that freedom of the press will be guaranteed; and
- “calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.”

**Additional Information:** Azerbaijan gained its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, and in 1992, joined the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which required the country to agree to certain commitments regarding democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. According to the resolution, in Azerbaijan’s 2003 presidential election, international observers monitoring the election “found that the pre-election, election day, and post-election environments fell short of international standards.” Other issues brought to light during this election included voter intimidation by opposition supporters, voting fraud, and instances of violence by both parties. According to the resolution, measures have been taken by the Azerbaijan government to address this matter; however, the upcoming November parliamentary elections provide an opportunity for the country to establish “a transparent, free and fair election process [which] is an important step in Azerbaijan’s progress toward full integration into the democratic community of nation.”

**Committee Action:** On June 16, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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**H.Res. 328 — Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers’ strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union — *as amended* (Gallegly)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution, as amended, is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 18, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 328 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the 25th anniversary of the workers’ strikes in Poland that led to establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union;
- “honors the struggle and sacrifice of the citizens of Poland who risked their lives to restore democracy to their country and to return Poland to the democratic community of nations; and
- “offers Poland as a model for other nations struggling to emerge from authoritarian rule and establish a flourishing representative government.”

**Additional Information:** For more than four decades after World War II, Poland was under the authoritarian rule of the Soviet Union. During the early 1980s, The Solidarity Trade Union, with over 10 million members, initiated a large social movement calling for Polish independence, democracy, and basic human rights. After negotiations with the Communist government, the Solidarity Trade Union supported several successful candidates for the National Assembly in the 1989 elections, and went on to elect Poland's first non-Communist Prime Minister since World War II. According to the resolution, “the Solidarity movement ended communism in Poland without bloodshed, inspiring other nations under Soviet control to do the same and leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989.” Additionally, the measure states, “the support of the United States and the Polish-American community was essential to the survival and success of the Solidarity movement, and a bond of friendship exists between the United States and Poland, which is among the strongest allies of the United States, a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a reliable partner in the Global War on Terrorism, and a key contributor in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

**Committee Action:** On June 17, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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**H.Con.Res. 175 — Acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean — *as amended* (Rangel)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution, *as amended*, is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 18, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 175, as amended, states that it is resolved:

“That Congress:

“(1) recognizes and honors African descendants in the Americas for their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the countries in the Americas, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean societies;

“(2) recognizes that as a result of their skin color and ancestry, African descendants in the Americas have wrongfully experienced economic, social, and political injustices;

“(3) urges the President to take appropriate measures to encourage the celebration and remembrance of the achievements of African descendants in the Americas and a resolution of injustices suffered by African descendants in the Americas;

“(4) encourages the United States and the international community to work to ensure that extreme poverty is eradicated, universal education is achieved, quality healthcare is made available, and equal access to justice and representation under the law is granted in Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; and

“(5) encourages the United States and the international community to achieve these goals in Latin America and the Caribbean by--

“(A) promoting research that focuses on identifying and eradicating racial disparities in economic, political, and social spheres;

“(B) promoting programs that focus on Afro-descendant communities;

“(C) providing technical support and training to Afro-descendant advocacy groups that work to uphold basic human rights in the region;

“(D) promoting the creation of an international working group that focuses on problems of communities of Afro-descendants in the Americas; and

“(E) promoting trade and other bilateral and multilateral agreements that take into account the needs of Afro-descendant communities.”

**Additional Information:** According to the sponsor, approximately 80 million to 150 million persons of African descent live in Latin America and the Caribbean, making them the largest population of persons of African descent outside of Africa. According to the resolution’s findings, “during Black History Month it is important that we not forget that African-Americans are not the only survivors of the transatlantic slave trade; [that . . .] many European nations benefited greatly from the colonization of Latin America and the Caribbean and their participation in the slave trade. . . . Although persons of African descent have made significant achievements in education, employment, economic, political, and social spheres in some countries, the vast majority are marginalized--living in impoverished communities where they are excluded from centers of education, government, and basic human rights based upon the color of their skin and ancestry.” The resolution also states that “skin color and ancestry have led African-Americans in the United States and African descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean to share similar injustices, leading to economic, social, health, and political inequalities.”

**Committee Action:** On June 8, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** None.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

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**H.Res. \_\_ — Commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India (DeLay)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. \_\_ would resolve that:

“It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India, exemplified by the current official visit of the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, is to be commended, supported, and expanded in the interest of the people of India and the people of the United States.”

**Additional Background:** Prime Minister Singh is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. According to the resolution’s findings, he played a large role in shaping “India’s economic policies to permit the growth of free markets, which has led to much greater economic prosperity for many people in India and the creation of a larger middle class.”

**Committee Action:** No official committee action was taken on the resolution.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

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